This assignment consists of two required tasks and one optional task.

First, read the syllabus, meaning the main page of the course web site. (Taking a course without first reading its syllabus is unwise, like signing a contract without reading it.)

Second, solve these problems:

- Section 1.1 #1, 2, 3, 4.
- In the Discussion Problems on the syllabus, do Problem 4A, about how Google values web pages in its search results.

(I meant to assign Section 1.1 #7, 8, 11, 15 as well. But we didn't solve any 3×3 examples in class, so let's not do those problems tonight.) Because those are our first homework problems, let's clarify their schedule:

- They're called "Day 1", because they're assigned on Day 1.
- You are expected to attempt them as soon as possible, and certainly before Day 2. That's because Day 2's material builds on Day 1's material. Here, "attempt them" means "complete them all if you can". If you can't complete them, then skim the book for clues, or seek help from the four big help resources: classmates, office hours, prefect, Math Skills Center.
- Hand in your solutions on paper at the start of class on Day 3.

(Really, what stops you from delaying this homework until the night before Day 3? Mainly the knowledge that it harms your learning of Day 2, and hence makes the next homework more difficult. We are trying to form a virtuous cycle of learning, rather than a vicious cycle of not learning.)

Third, if you like, install Mathematica on your computer following the instructions on the syllabus. (You are not required to do this installation. You can instead visit a Carleton computer lab, such as CMC 304 or 102, when you want to use Mathematica. These labs are open much of the day, but they might be closed at night and during certain class periods. So you might find it more convenient to install Mathematica on your computer. Installation is free, but it does use a lot of disk space.)